To: Dr. Blalock and Interested Classmates
From: Raven Yoder
Date: October 20, 2018
RE: Codes and Contexts, Communication at a Distance, Rhetoric and Writing

Saying

- Codes and Contexts
  - The author seems to be saying that all we know of language as individuals--from the moment of our first words--comes from observing face-to-face interactions with competent speakers of the language. However, it within the absence of this face-to-face interaction that language can hold more meanings, implications, and ideas as an author could ever imagine, as each interpreter shifts the result of the words as they read. The text delves further into the origin of language: from the classical languages, modern Westernized language emerged. Perhaps the most interesting sentence in this section was: "This code-regulation was enforced and rewarded through systems of class and power to create cultures of correctness that again appeared as contextless markers of legitimacy to be on display in every situation" (Bazerman, 11). It made me change my perception of language regulation. Initially, I believed regulation existed for inclusivity and logic--we could all understand each other, promoting solid structure of governmental ideas, communication of emotions, etc. But, after reading this and looking at current American society, I can definitely see how language, in regards to literacy and non-native speakers, excludes some from class advancement.
- Communication at a Distance
  - Bazerman says that, as written language began to travel across distances and into other situations/scenarios, messengers included "social arrangements" (Bazerman, 11) or context as well. They communicated when a message was from a leader and, in this particular scenario, that the message was worthy of respect, quick response, etc. As means of communication advanced (phones, etc.), we created more etiquette and context cues to promote wide understanding of the code we'd created. In summation, without context, meaning is easily lost.
- Rhetoric and Writing
  - I think the most eye-opening statement Bazerman made here is that "meanings do not exist as fixed absolutes" (Bazerman, 15). Here, he was communicating just how important tactful and well-thought-out communication *is* when writing. For instance, the meaning of a word may vary from person to person, region to region, ethnicity to ethnicity and we must keep these things in mind during writing so as to make both our intended meanings and messages clear to anyone who amy come across our writing.

Doing

- Codes and Contexts

- ○ Bazerman is asking us to realize that language regulation has its pros but also has its downfalls: class progression and societal acceptance can be hindered when one cannot communicate in the desired code.
- Communication at a Distance
  - ○ Bazerman is reminding us to consider context when participating in written communication. Is the audience aware of the argument's premise, the individuals involved in the formation of the writer's point of view? Does the audience know what the writer is responding to--is the writer actually responding to the audience or writing in hopes to reach a specific audience?
- Rhetoric and Writing
  - ○ Bazerman remarks upon the use of rhetoric to shape a text--to form an agenda if you will. With so many meanings up for interpretation, it is all too necessary that the reader have the ideas shaped for him--the writer/speaker must create a mold for his ideas and bring the reader/listener into that mold.

Changes and Expands
- Codes and Contexts
  - ○ I would ask Bazerman: despite the downfalls of language regulation such as stopped class mobility, do you you believe these are outweighed by advantages such as likelihood of future success as literacy increases, etc.?
- Communication at a Distance
  - ○ I would like to ask are there any surefire methods for always making sure to include context in one's writing? I feel context, especially on a well-researched issue, may be so easy to forget in certain genres of writing (such as how some scientific genres require an abstract and a clear statement of the issue at hand with response scenario given) when the writer is so familiar with the context--he may forget the reader is not.
- Rhetoric and Writing
  - ○ I would ask: before ancient orators created and used rhetoric, how were societies different? Was there more disagreement, war, etc.? I know rhetoric is sometimes looked down upon as an academic approach to brainwashing and the like but how have the benefits of rhetoric advanced societies throughout history?

Connects
- Codes and Contexts
  - ○ This made me think of my literacy campaign and children's book drafts. Although literacy is important, we need to make sure children are being educated in the language of the society for future progression and success. For instance, Spanish-speaking parents need to ensure their children are also fluent in English as English is the main language of America and is recognized in many other countries within the business sector.
- Communication at a Distance

- ○ This reminds me much of how we are always supposed to consider our audience. For instance, from my research, I now know a bit more than the average person about beneficial techniques/reading material for promoting literacy in toddlers. So, I need to remember that my audience may not and fill them in on the background information first--no matter how tedious it may seem to do so.
- Rhetoric and Writing
  - ○ Just like we do with context, we must keep rhetorical approach in mind when writing in any genre. To ensure our message isn't obscure, we must create a meaning that is clear, concise, and direct so our message can effectively travel through multiple blockades to communication, audience types, and situations.